

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Solid Waste Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting
January 7, 2010

Present: Knox (chair), Ames, Coughlin, Walton (staff), Hultgren (staff)

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 p.m.

The minutes of the December 4, 2008, June 30, 2009 and September 24, 2009 were accepted.

Freedom of Information brochures were distributed to committee members.

Walton reported that the planning for this year's UConn Give and Go has started. With the level of help coming from the University, Walton does not think that SWAC members will be called upon to offer assistance this year.

The EO Smith High School composting program has not started. Until recently there was a delay in clearing area for the compost bin. The Green Teens have persisted in spite of this. It was suggested that staff send a press release to the local papers featuring the Green Teens efforts, particularly Jessie Mehrhoff. Knox could enlist a student in UConn's journalism program to write an article for The Daily Campus.

Walton stated that an outstanding blight citation has been sent to the Rockville court. UConn's community outreach has asked the Town to supervise litter collection on one or more of the community service days - March 20, March 21, March 27 and April 17. Walton can participate on March 21. Knox and Coughlin may be available to help on one of the other days. Walton will first check with UConn to see if this can be a class activity, for credit with teacher participation.

Walton reported that over the course of a year there were 331 trash complaints/issues. Of that 113 were related to lack of recycling and 71 related to service level issues. Walton distributed trash and recycling data. The average residential recycling rate has been dropping. The composition of waste has changed – fewer newspapers and glass, which made the recycle stream heavier, replaced with lighter weight recyclables – is one possible factor. To further evaluate this, a comparison of the pounds of recyclables and trash per household, will be brought to the next meeting. Tim or Tom DeVivo from Willimantic Waste Paper will be invited to the next meeting to report on trends in recycling. Other suggestions included placing ads in local papers and polling residents. Single stream data was compared to dual stream. There has been no significant increase or decrease in recycling since single stream began in July 2009. Walton stated that since moving to single stream many residents have expressed interest in using the

automated 65 gallon containers for recycling. With the single family collection contract ending September 2010, this might be a topic for a future meeting.

Staff was asked to get a progress report from Westport on their plastic bag ban, which went into effect in March 2009.

Hultgren reported on the Mid NEROC recycling contracts. The electronics recycling contract was awarded to an unfamiliar company. Walton discovered that this contractor has failed to demonstrate its compliance with Maine's best management practices, making them ineligible to participate Maine's recycling program. Maine is one of the first states that had an electronics recycling law, with performance standards. Maine's best management practices are very similar to the EPA's R2 standards. Staff will send a letter to the Mid NEROC administrator stating the findings and reason for not participating in the regional electronics recycling contract.

Hultgren stated that the hazardous waste facility is costing more to run than what the Town's contribute, but there is a built-up fund balance that is allowing each town's annual contribution to remain the same. Mansfield's share of about \$11,000 per year has not risen in the past five years.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 4, 2010 in conference room B. The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk